



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of Jesmin K. Basanti
Staff Attorney, CBIA
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, Connecticut
March 2, 2010**

S.B. 261 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Job Corps Task Force

Good Afternoon Senator Prague and Representative Ryan and other members of the committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti and I am Staff Attorney for Economic Development matters at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. The vast majority of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Every day businesses are looking for ways to do more with less and to still find ways to provide their employees with the best work environment they can. **SB 261** is a measure that has the potential to encourage out of work employees to continue seeking employment while they give back to their communities.

With fiscal situation the state is currently facing, we would caution the committee to take into account the cost of this study and that the task force should maintain the goal of trying to get out of work employees back into the workforce. The make up of the task force could also benefit from having persons who understand the market provide some input on what types of skills might be best learned by those out of work employees.

CBIA has always encouraged initiatives that keep the cost of doing business down, and utilizes money in the most efficient manner possible. We look forward to continue working with the committee to ensure the economic vitality of business in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this proposal.